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CITY COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR EMANUEL'S ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE AMERICAN AIRLINES TO BUILD ADDITIONAL GATES AT O'HARE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

City Council today approved an ordinance introduced by Mayor Rahm Emanuel which authorizes the Chicago Department of Aviation and American Airlines to enter into an agreement for the development, construction and operation of five airline gates, collectively known as the "L Stinger Gates," and related facilities in Terminal 3 at O'Hare International Airport.

"This represents the next step in securing another win for O'Hare International Airport and the City of Chicago," said Mayor Rahm Emanuel. "Chicago's economic future is linked to the success and growth of O'Hare, and these new gates will help make O'Hare not only the busiest, but also the best airport in the world.

This new agreement will assist in increasing capacity at the airport, providing significant economic benefit to the city of Chicago, and improving on-time performance at O'Hare. The number of total gates at O'Hare will grow from 189 to 194 – representing not just the first major expansion of gate capacity at O'Hare since Terminal 5 was built in 1993, but also the first major domestic gate expansion since Terminal 1 was built in 1987.

The additional gates to be constructed pursuant to this ground lease will also continue to strengthen the City's role as a hub for American Airlines, provide more amenities to the traveling public and improve circulation in the terminal core.

Once this agreement is approved, American Airlines anticipates that the new gates will be completed by 2018. American Airlines will fund the entire cost for this project.

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